

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Consultation between Communication, disinvestment Ministries and PMO

1002. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the consultation between Communication, Disinvestment Ministries and the PMO, it was decided to specifically go into the security concerns arising out of proposed disinvestment of Government shares in VSNL to 26 per cent and consult the Ministry of Home Affairs and other appropriate security agencies;

(b) if so, whether it was also decided that his Ministry will initiate this process of consultation;

(c) if so, whether such a consultation has taken place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The decision of the Government to disinvest in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited involved inter-ministerial consultations on all aspects of disinvestment. Security concerns would be suitably dealt with in consultation with Department of Telecommunication and Ministry of Home Affairs at the time of disinvestment. Inter ministerial Meetings to this effect have already been held.

News-item "IPCL issue smacks of scam, says Opposition"

1003. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will (he Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "IPCL issue smacks of scam, says Opposition" which appeared in the Times of India (New Delhi), dated 22nd December, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether synergy of operation and interest of the companies are being taken into account on similar lines for selling of IBP shares to BPCL as per Nilish Sen Gupta Committee's recommendation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor.'